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COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
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Item 2 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. Review of the world social situation.

4. Monitoring of international plans and programmes of action.

5. Priority subjects:

   (a) The problem of the integration of young people into society;

   (b) Social impact of the critical economic environment on developing countries: strategies for social development co-operation.

6. Programme questions and other matters:

   (a) Programme performance and implementation;

   (b) Proposed programme of work for the biennium 1992-1993;

   (c) United Nations Research Institute for Social Development.

7. Provisional agenda for the thirty-third session of the Commission.

8. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its thirty-second session.

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Annotations

1. Election of officers

Rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council stipulates that, at the commencement of the first meeting of a regular session, the Commission shall elect, from among the representatives of its members, a Chairman, one or more Vice-Chairmen and such other officers as may be required.

At past sessions, the Commission has elected a Chairman, three Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 7 of the rules of procedure requires that the Commission shall, at the beginning of each session, after the election of its officers, adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda.

3. Review of the world social situation

The Commission will review emerging trends and issues of global concern, giving particular attention to social policy and programme implications. Emphasis will be placed on the review of new approaches and methods for the solution of problems based, inter alia, on recent national experience.

The Commission has before it the interim report on the world social situation. In resolution 45/87, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue monitoring the world social situation in depth on a regular basis and to submit, in accordance with paragraph 10 of its resolution 44/56, an interim report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Economic and Social Council, and a full report in 1993. In resolution 1990/28, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General, in preparing the interim report, to take into account paragraph 4 of Council resolution 1989/72, in which the Secretary-General was requested, in preparing the 1993 report, to give high priority to an analysis of the main indicators of social progress and standards of living and to make a comprehensive analysis of the main causes and circumstances that explained negative trends in those indicators; chapters devoted to the study of specific social problems were to be related to global economic and social situations, taking into account both national and international conditions. In resolution 44/54, the General Assembly invited the Commission for Social Development, in its discussion of the world social situation, to pay increasing attention to the effects of science and technology on the processes of social welfare and development, and requested the Secretary-General, when elaborating the next report on the world social situation, to take due account of the effects of science and technology on processes of social welfare and development on the basis of information available from Governments and from organizations of the United Nations system.

In accordance with Council resolution 1989/46, the Commission has before it the report of the Secretary-General on the critical social situation in Africa. The report provides an in-depth evaluation of the situation, paying particular attention to the obstacles to the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990, including the impact of structural adjustment policies on the social situation in Africa.

In resolution 1989/55, the Economic and Social Council recommended that the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole for the Preparation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade take into consideration, in preparing the Strategy, the proposals of the Commission for Social Development contained in the annex to that resolution. In the same resolution, the Council decided that the Commission for Social Development should consider the implementation of social components of the strategy at its thirty-second session.

At its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly adopted the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, the text of which is contained in the annex to Assembly resolution 45/199.

Documentation

Interim report on the world social situation (A/46/....)

Report of the Secretary-General on the critical social situation in Africa (E/CN.5/1991/8)

4. Monitoring of international plans and programmes of action

The Commission will monitor the implementation of international plans and programmes of action: specifically, the Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future, the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth, the International Plan of Action on Aging, the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons (1983-1992).

The Commission will review concurrently the relevant activities of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat in the field of social development, including technical co-operation activities, in particular those relating to developmental social welfare, the co-operative movement, community and local-level action and family issues, as well as activities relating to youth, the aging and disabled persons. The Commission will receive reports from the regional commissions on their social welfare and social development activities, as well as reports of relevant expert group meetings.

Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future

It may be recalled that in resolution 1987/48, the Economic and Social Council requested the Commission for Social Development to review, at its thirty-first session, the results of the Interregional Consultation on Developmental Social

Welfare Policies and Programmes. The Interregional Consultation (held in September 1987) adopted the Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future, which were endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 42/125. The Commission, at its thirty-first session, recommended follow-up activities, which were subsequently endorsed by the Council in resolution 1989/53 and the Assembly in resolution 44/65. The Assembly, in resolution 44/65 requested the Secretary-General, inter alia, to report to it at its forty-sixth session on the progress achieved in implementing and following up the Guiding Principles. The Commission may wish to recommend to the Assembly, through the Council, ways to strengthen implementation and follow-up of the Guiding Principles in the light of progress achieved and obstacles encountered. Information on activities carried out or under way is contained in the relevant section of the report of the Secretary-General on the major issues and programme activities of the United Nations Secretariat and the regional commissions relating to social development and welfare and specific social groups, which is before the Commission.

In resolution 1989/49, the Council requested the Secretary-General to consider ways of following up the recommendations of the Interregional Consultation by, inter alia, carrying out a study on the negative social consequences of alcohol use, based on the report of an expert meeting, and took note with appreciation of the offer of the Government of Norway to act as host to an expert meeting on that topic. The Council further requested the Secretary-General to report to the Commission at its thirty-second session on the outcome of the expert meeting and to distribute the report of the meeting to Member States, inviting their comments on the recommendations contained therein. In its resolution 45/134, the General Assembly requested the Commission for Social Development to report on its discussions of the report and the comments from Member States and the Council at its first regular session of 1991 with proposals for future action. The report of the meeting will be made available to the Commission.

Implementation of the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth

The Economic and Social Council, in resolution 1989/51, called upon all States, all governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the United Nations system, in particular the Council through its Commission for Social Development, to continue to give appropriate attention to proper follow-up and implementation of the guidelines, and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission at its thirty-second session a report on the implementation of the guidelines. The Council also requested the Commission at its thirty-second session to prepare a draft programme of action to mark the tenth anniversary of the International Youth Year and to identify future strategies in the field of youth. The request was reiterated by the General Assembly in resolution 44/59. The information requested is contained in the relevant section of the report of the Secretary-General on the major issues and programme activities of the United Nations Secretariat and the regional commissions relating to social development and welfare and specific social groups, which is before the Commission. Additional information on the implementation of the guidelines and on the declaration on the promotion among youth of the ideals of peace, mutual respect and understanding

between peoples, together with preliminary suggestions regarding action to mark the tenth anniversary of the International Youth Year and a youth programme of action towards the year 2000 and beyond, is contained in the report of the Secretary-General concerning policies and programmes involving young people (A/45/422), which will be made available to the Commission.

On the basis of that report, the General Assembly adopted resolution 45/103, in which it requested the Secretary-General to continue to promote and monitor the inclusion of youth-related projects and activities in the programme of United Nations bodies and the specialized agencies, specifically on such themes as communications, health, malnutrition, poverty, housing, culture, youth employment, illiteracy, juvenile delinquency, education and leisure-time activities, drug abuse and the environment. The Assembly invited all Member States to consider preparing a national plan of action based on an analytical national evaluation of the situation and needs of youth; requested the regional commissions, together with regional and youth-serving organizations, to undertake a comprehensive review of progress achieved and obstacles encountered in their regions since 1985 and to propose draft regional youth programmes of action towards the year 2000 and beyond; and requested the Secretary-General to prepare a draft world youth programme of action towards the year 2000 and beyond.

Review of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Aging

The Economic and Social Council, at its first regular session of 1989, considered the report of the Secretary-General on the second review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Aging, conducted by the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-first session in accordance with General Assembly resolution 37/51. In resolution 1989/50, the Council adopted a set of priorities and recommendations to encourage further implementation of the Plan of Action, which were set out in annex I to the resolution. In the same resolution, the Council endorsed the draft programme of United Nations activities relating to the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Plan of Action, which was set out in annex II to the resolution. Furthermore, the Council recommended the convening of a special ad hoc working group of the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-second session to monitor the activities for the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Plan of Action.

In resolution 44/67, the General Assembly endorsed the draft programme of United Nations activities relating to the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Plan of Action. In the same resolution, the Assembly called upon Member States, the specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations to assist the Secretariat in elaborating for the consideration of the Assembly at its forty-fifth session a detailed global programme of activities for 1992 on the basis of the draft programme endorsed by the Council.

In resolution 45/106, the General Assembly endorsed the Secretary-General's action programme on aging for 1992 and beyond, prepared in accordance with its resolution 44/67. The report of the Secretary-General outlining the action programme (A/45/420) will be made available to the Commission.

In the same resolution, the Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1989/50 that an ad hoc working group of the Commission for Social Development be convened at its thirty-second session to monitor the activities for the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the International Plan of Action on Aging, especially to launch a global information campaign, and the selection of targets that might form the basis of the third review and appraisal of the Plan of Action to be conducted by the Commission at its thirty-third session, in 1993. The Assembly recommended that the Commission, at its thirty-second session, give consideration to the desirability of convening, subject to the availability of funds, regional and sectoral meetings on the selection of targets on aging during 1991 and 1992 and global consultations in 1993 and 1997, to coincide with the third and fourth reviews and appraisals of the implementation of the Plan of Action.

Additional information regarding implementation of the Plan of Action and the action programme on aging for 1992 and beyond is contained in the relevant section of the report of the Secretary-General on the major issues and programme activities of the United Nations Secretariat and the regional commissions relating to social development and welfare and specific social groups, which is before the Commission.

Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons during the second half of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons

The Economic and Social Council, at its first regular session of 1989, considered the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons. In resolution 1989/52, the Council called upon Member States, bodies and organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to further the practical implementation of the World Programme of Action during the second half of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons, based on the list of priorities and programmes set forth in the annex to General Assembly resolution 43/98. The Council also requested the Secretary-General to report to the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-second session on the implementation of Council resolution 1989/52. In accordance with that request, the relevant information is contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the major issues and programme activities of the United Nations Secretariat and the regional commissions relating to social development and welfare and specific population groups, which is before the Commission.

In resolution 1990/26, the Economic and Social Council authorized the Commission to consider, at its thirty-second session, the establishment of an ad hoc open-ended working group of government experts, funded by voluntary contributions, to elaborate standard rules on the equalization of opportunities for disabled children, youth and adults, in close collaboration with the specialized agencies, other intergovernmental bodies and non-governmental organizations, especially organizations of disabled persons themselves. The Council further requested the Commission, should it establish such a working group, to finalize the text of those rules for consideration by the Council at its first regular session of 1993 and for submission to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session.

The attention of the Commission is drawn to the report of the Secretary-General (A/45/470) which contains the results of the feasibility study on the substantive, financial and administrative implications of alternative ways to mark the end of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons in 1992, as called for by the General Assembly in its resolution 43/98.

Having considered the feasibility study, the General Assembly, in resolution 45/91, stressed the need to implement the objectives set out in the agenda for action until the end of the Decade and the preliminary outline of a long-term strategy to the year 2000 and beyond. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to shift the focus of the United Nations programme on disability from awareness-raising to action, with the aim of achieving a society for all by the year 2010; and stressed the need, within existing resources, for priority to be given to action-oriented programmes that would renew international consensus on and elicit a sustained political commitment by Member States to the implementation of the World Programme of Action beyond the Decade.

International Year of the Family

In resolution 44/82, the General Assembly proclaimed 1994 as International Year of the Family, endorsed the main recommendations, objectives and principles for the observance of the Year, as contained in the comprehensive outline of a possible programme for the Year (A/44/407); and designated the Commission for Social Development as the preparatory body and the Economic and Social Council as the co-ordinating body for the Year. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare, on the basis of his report and in consultation with Member States, concerned specialized agencies and interested intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, a draft programme for the preparation for and observance of the Year, and to submit a progress report thereon to the Assembly at its forty-fifth session.

In resolution 45/133, the General Assembly took note of the note by the Secretary-General (A/45/365); welcomed the establishment of an organizational secretariat for the Year within the Social Development Division of the United Nations Office at Vienna; invited Governments to contribute resources, including staff, to the organizational secretariat; invited all States to take prompt ation to establish national mechanisms to prepare for, observe and follow-up the Year; requested the Secretary-General to establish a voluntary fund for the preparation for and observance of the Year, and invited all States and interested organizations to contribute to that fund. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to finalize a draft programme for the preparation for and observance of the Year and to submit it for consideration, on a priority basis, by the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-second session and to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session. At the same time, the Assembly requested the Commission for Social Development to inform the Commission on the Status of Women on the preparations for the Year. The report of the Secretary-General containing the draft programme of the Year is before the Commission.

Achievement of social justice

In resolution 44/55, the General Assembly called upon Member States, in elaborating their national policy in the field of social development, to take into consideration the importance of achieving social justice for all. It requested the Commission for Social Development, at its next session, to continue to consider the question of achieving social justice. In resolution 1990/25, the Economic and Social Council requested the Commission to consider the question of social justice and possible avenues of international co-operation for promoting social progress. In resolution 45/86, the General Assembly also requested the Commission to consider the question of achieving social justice.

Crime prevention and criminal justice

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/25, the report of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control on its eleventh session (E/1990/31) will be made available to the Commission.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the major issues and programme activities of the Secretariat and the regional commissions relating to social development and welfare and specific social groups (E/CN.5/1991/3 and Add.1)

Report of the Secretary-General on a draft programme for the preparations for and observance of the International Year of the Family (E/CN.5/1991/2)

5. Priority subjects

The Commission will consider in depth: (a) the problem of the integration of young people into society; and (b) the social impact of the critical economic environment on developing countries: strategies for social development co-operation. The Commission will consider the conclusions and recommendations of relevant expert group meetings, focusing on policy measures and taking into account the special concerns of the developing countries.

(a) The problem of the integration of young people into society

An International Symposium on the Integration of Young People into Society was held in Toledo, Spain from 4 to 8 June 1990. The report of the Symposium is before the Commission.

(b) Social impact of the critical economic environment on developing countries: strategies for social development co-operation

An Expert Group Meeting on the Social Impact of the Critical Economic Environment on Developing Countries: Strategies for Social Development Co-operation was held in Järvenpää, Finland from 17 to 21 September 1990. The report of the Meeting is before the Commission.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on the problem of the integration of young people into society (E/CN.5/1991/4)

Note by the Secretary-General on the social impact of the critical economic environment on developing countries: strategies for social development co-operation (E/CN.5/1991/5)

6. Programme questions and other matters

(a) Programme performance and implementation

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 39/238, the Commission will have before it excerpts from the report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1988-1989 (A/45/218 and Add.1) and of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination on the work of its thirtieth session (A/45/16 (Parts I and II)).

(b) Proposed programme of work for the biennium 1992-1993

At its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly adopted the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 and reaffirmed that the plan was the principal policy directive of the United Nations and would serve as a framework for the formulation of the biennial programme budget (resolution 45/253).

The Commission will have before it for discussion a note by the Secretary-General on the proposed programme of work for the biennium 1992-1993 in the field of social development, which was drawn up in accordance with the strategy described in the relevant programme of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997. The Secretariat will also inform the Commission about possible revisions to the medium-term plan covering the biennium 1994-1995.

(c) United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

Nomination of members of the Board of the Institute

The Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development is composed of 10 members who are nominated by the Commission for Social Development and confirmed by the Economic and Social Council for a term of four years, renewable once for a further two years, in accordance with Commission resolution 10 (XXV).

In decision 1989/160, the Economic and Social Council confirmed the nominations by the Commission for Social Development of two new members of the Board for a four-year term and granted an additional two-year term to four members, beginning on 1 July 1989. By decision 1989/132 the Council decided to endorse Commission for Social Development decision 31/102, in which the Commission decided to increase the number of nominated members of the Board from seven to ten. In decision 1989/181, the Council decided, on an exceptional basis, to confirm the

nomination of three additional members for a term beginning on 6 July 1989 and ending 30 June 1993.

In accordance with the terms of reference of the Institute, the Commission is to nominate, at its thirty-second session, five candidates for a four-year term. The Council will be called upon to confirm those nominations at its first regular session of 1991.

Report of the Board of the Institute

In accordance with its terms of reference, the Board of the Institute submits to the Commission a report on the progress of its work. The report before the Commission covers the period 1989-1990.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on the draft proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993

Note by the Secretary-General on the nomination of members of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (E/CN.5/1991/7)

Report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (E/CN.5/1991/6)

7. Provisional agenda for the thirty-third session of the Commission

In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure, the Commission will have before it the draft provisional agenda for its thirty-third session, together with an indication of the documents to be submitted for its consideration.

The Council, in resolution 1989/114 on further measures for the implementation of its resolution 1988/77 on the revitalization of the Economic and Social Council, urged its subsidiary bodies to implement fully Council resolution 1979/41 in submitting to the Council, for consideration, their provisional agendas together with the lists of requested documentation, with a view to ensuring greater consistency in requests for documentation and improving reporting procedures. In this connection it will be recalled that the Council has urged all of its subsidiary bodies to exercise the utmost restraint in making requests of the Secretary-General for new reports and studies and to implement fully the decisions of the Council and the General Assembly with respect to the control and limitation of documentation (see Council resolutions 1981/83 and 1982/50).

In decision 1983/163, the Council requested the Secretary-General to bring to the attention of intergovernmental and expert bodies, before decisions were adopted, any request for documentation that exceeded the ability of the Secretariat to prepare and process on time and within its approved resources and to draw the attention of intergovernmental bodies to areas where duplication of documentation was likely to occur and/or where opportunities for integrating or consolidating documents that dealt with related or similar themes might exist, with a view to rationalizing documentation.

Documentation

Draft provisional agenda for the thirty-third session of the Commission for Social Development

8. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its thirty-second session

In accordance with rule 37 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission reports to the Council on the work of each session.